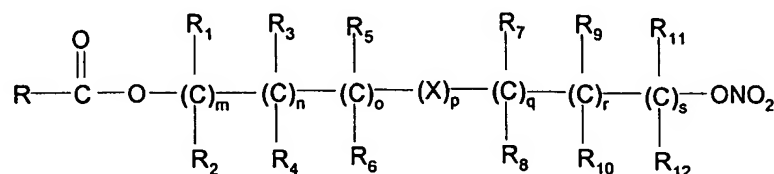


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

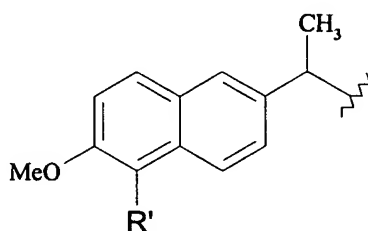
1. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of general formula (A)



(A)

wherein:

R is



in which R' is a hydrogen atom or Br

R₁-R₁₂ are the same or different and independently are hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, optionally substituted with aryl;

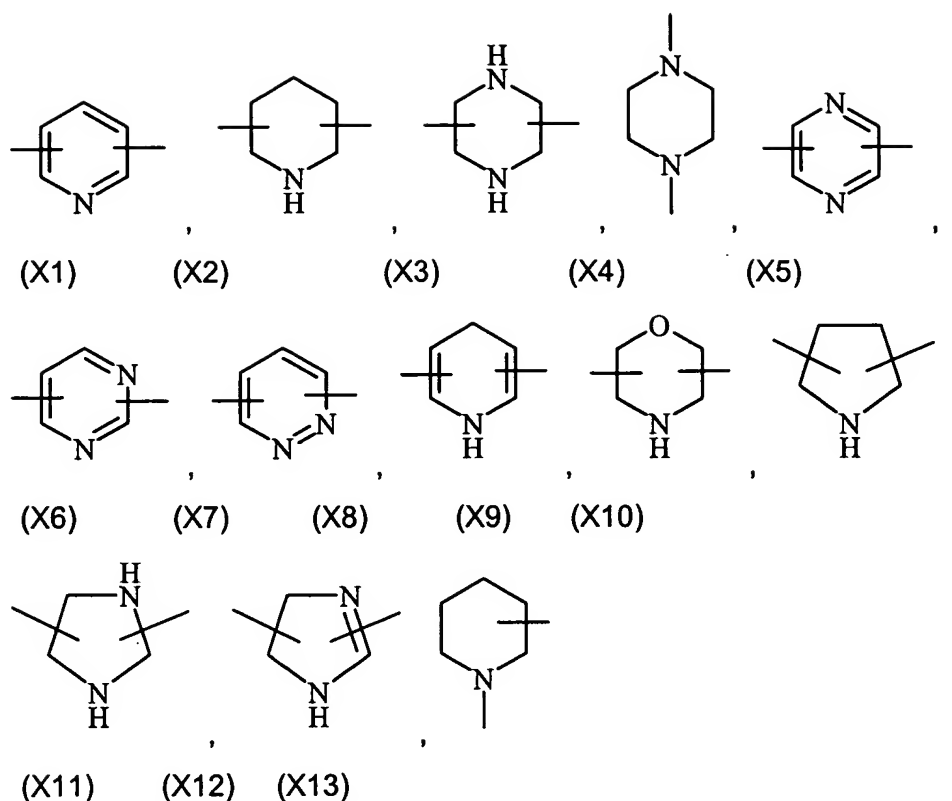
m, n, o, q, r and s are each independently an integer from 0 to 6, and p is 0 or 1, and

X is O, S, SO, SO₂, NR₁₃ or PR₁₃, in which R₁₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or X is selected from the group consisting of:

- cycloalkylene with 5 to 7 carbon atoms into cycloalkylene ring, the ring being eventually substituted with side chains T, wherein T is straight or branched alkyl with from 1 to 10 carbon atoms;

- arylene, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl groups containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a straight or branched C₁-C₃ perfluoroalkyl;

- a 5 or 6 member saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic heterocyclic ring selected from



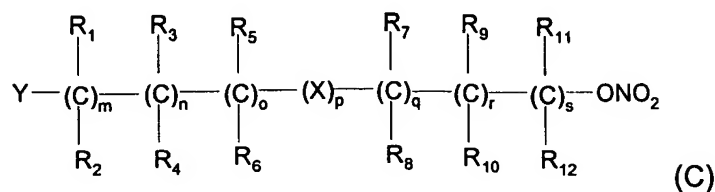
5

said process comprising:

i) reacting a compound of formula (B)



- 10 wherein R is as above defined and Z is hydrogen or a cation selected from Li^+ , Na^+ , Ca^{++} , Mg^{++} , tetralkylammonium, tetralkylphosphonium, with a compound of formula (C)

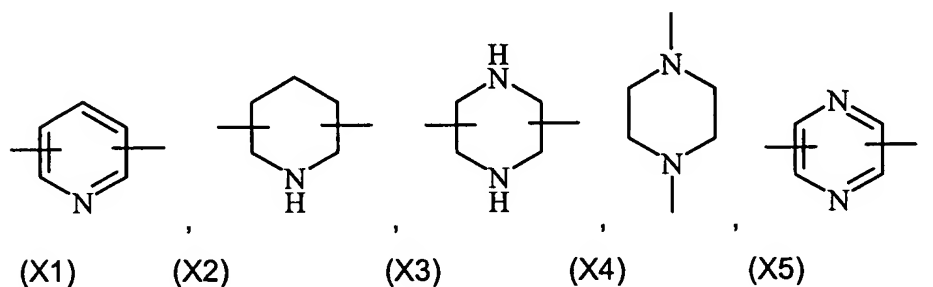
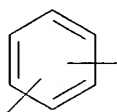


- 15 wherein R_1 - R_{12} and m, n, o, p, q, r, s are as defined above and

Y is selected from

- a halogen atom
- $-\text{BF}_4$, $-\text{SbF}_6$, FSO_3^- , R_ASO_3^- , in which R_A is a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, or a C_1 - C_6 alkylaryl;

- $R_B\text{COO}^-$, wherein R_B is straight or branched $C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl, aryl, optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or NO_2 groups, $C_4\text{-}C_{10}$ heteroaryl and containing one or more heteroatoms, which are the same or different, selected from nitrogen, oxygen sulfur or phosphorus;
 - 5 - aryloxy optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms or NO_2 groups, or heteroaryloxy and
 - ii) optionally converting a compound of formula (A) wherein R' is Br in a compound of formula (A) wherein R' is hydrogen.
- 10 2. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula A according to claim 1 wherein:
- the substituents $R_1\text{-}R_{12}$ are the same or different and independently are hydrogen or straight or branched $C_1\text{-}C_3$ alkyl,
- m, n, o, p, q, r and s are as defined above,
- 15 X is O, S or



- 20 3. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula A according to claim 1-~~or 2~~ wherein $R_1\text{-}R_4$ and $R_7\text{-}R_{10}$ are hydrogens, m, n, q, r, are 1, o and s are 0, p is 0 or 1, and X is O or S.
4. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula A
- 25 according to claim 1 ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of Br, Cl, I, $-\text{BF}_4$, $-\text{SbF}_6$, FSO_3^- , ClO_4^- , CF_3SO_3^- , $\text{C}_2\text{F}_5\text{SO}_3^-$, $\text{C}_3\text{F}_7\text{SO}_3^-$, $\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{SO}_3^-$, $p\text{-CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SO}_3^-$.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula A according to claim 1~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ wherein the reaction is performed in an organic solvent selected from acetone, tetrahydrofurane, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidone, sulfolane and acetonitrile.
- 5
6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula A according to ~~anyone of the claims 1-4~~ wherein the reaction is performed in a biphasic system comprising an aprotic dipolar solvent selected from toluene, chlorobenzene, nitrobenzene, tert-butylmethylether and a water solution
- 10 wherein the organic solution contains (C) and the water solution contain an alkaline metal salt of (B), in presence of a phase transfer catalyst.
7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula A according to claim 1~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ wherein the reaction is
- 15 performed at a temperature ranging from 0°C to 100°C.
8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula A according to claim 1~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ wherein the compounds of formula B and C are reacted at a (B)/(C) molar ratio of 2-0.5.
- 20
9. (Currently Amended) 2-(S)-(5-bromo-6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)propanoic acid, 4-(nitrooxy)butyl ester according to claim 1.